

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
RESEARCH ACTIVITY PANEL

Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 15, 1995
MBARI, Moss Landing

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, Research Activity Panel (RAP), met on Friday, September 15, 1995 at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) conference room in Moss Landing, CA.

Members in Attendance were:

Greg Cailliet, MLML
Judith Connor, MBARI (in attendance for Bruce Robison)
Andrew DeVogelaere, MBNMS
Mark Stephenson, CDFG
Laura Ehret, NPGS
Steve Eittreim, USGS
Don Potts, UCSC
George Boehlert, NOAA - PFEG
Deborah Johnston, CDFG
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS
Jan Roletto, Gulf of the Farallones NMS
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium

Special Guests in Attendance were:

Nicole Crane, Hopkins Marine Station
Michelle Paddack, Graduate Student at UCSC
Thomas A. Neal, PSRF

Members Not in Attendance were:

Dennis Powers, Hopkins Marine Station
Jim Harvey, MLML
Jim Rote, CSUMB/MBNMS
Terry Jackson, MBNMS
Patricia Port, Department of the Interior
Karen Worcester, Morro Bay Foundation
Rick Starr, University of California, Sea Grant
Les Strnad, CCC
Geof Wheat, NURP
Ken Parker, OAB

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

The Draft minutes of the August 18, 1995 meeting were approved as presented.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Research Plan (DeVogelaere) -- Andrew proposed that the Scientific Research Plan for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary be updated to reflect current and emerging research needs and to review the plan's existing short and long-term goals.

During discussion, RAP members suggested that an accomplishments page be added as an addendum to the report and that the working group's role in the Water Quality Protection Program be more clearly defined.

A subcommittee composed of Jim Rote, Chris Harrold, Andrew DeVogelaere, Mark Stephenson, and Deborah Johnston were asked to help coalesce the revisions for the plan. Additional comments should be directed to Andrew at (831) 647-4213.

The revisions are expected to be completed by early 1996.

B. American Association for the Advancement of Science Conference (Sharp) -- The two-day conference, scheduled for June 4-6, 1996 at San Jose State University, will be focusing on Central California and the National Marine Sanctuary Program. Gary Sharp and Andrew DeVogelaere are organizing an all-day session in Monterey as a field trip component of the conference. The event will most likely be held at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and will consist of a demonstration of the site characterization project, a discussion of hydrology in the Salinas Valley, and sharing perspectives with some of the area's land owners.

For more information about the Monterey segment of the AAAS Conference, please contact Andrew at the Sanctuary office.

C. Subtidal Monitoring in Central California (Nicole Crane) -- Nicole Crane, from Hopkins Marine Station, and Michelle Paddock, a graduate student at the University of California at Santa Cruz, presented a report on their work to develop a volunteer program for observing benthic species and their habitats, both in protected and non-protected marine environments.

Objectives of the program include:

- the identification of sites and target species within the MBNMS that the research community would like to monitor over time;
- to compile a species lists for the identified sites;
- to use the project to support other research questions that can be completed by graduate students;
- to create and implement a monitoring handbook designed to introduce the program, provide a list of the species for observation, and to provide an understanding of the methods and data;

there is an oversight committee that continuously reviews the program.

IV. SHORT DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Report on the August 25, 1995 SAC Meeting (Cailliet) -- In an effort to make the best use of time during the RAP meetings, the report on the Sanctuary Advisory Council activities will be reduced to select highlights only. Panel members interested in receiving more detailed information about the Advisory

Council meetings should contact Jane DeLay at (831) 647-4246 for a copy of the minutes.

Highlights from the August Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting included:

- A discussion of methods for improving public relations efforts;
- A report on the status of the establishment of a Sanctuary Foundation; and,
- A presentation by Brian Baird, Ocean Program Manager for the California Resources Agency, on the draft document entitled, California's Ocean Resources: An Agenda for the Future. The Sanctuary Advisory Council will be submitting comments on the plan at the September meeting.

The next meeting of the Sanctuary Advisory Council is Friday, September 29 at the Moss Landing Chamber of Commerce Building in Moss Landing, CA.

B. NOAA R/V McArthur Cruise: 1995 Report and 1996 Plans (King) -- The cruise report is completed and copies are available at the Sanctuary office. Plans are continuing to secure ship time and prioritize research projects for next year. At present, it appears that May/June 1996 will be the most likely time for the cruises. Aaron is also working with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to secure some Fall 1996 time.

Andrew will accept requests for research projects and will bring them to the October meeting for discussion.

C. RAP/MBNMS Support Letters for Research Proposals (DeVogelaere) -- Andrew presented the four proposals submitted for RAP endorsement and notified the panel that he will no longer be mailing copies of the endorsement letters to RAP members as a matter of policy. Individuals interested in receiving copies of the material should contact Andrew directly.

Following some discussion, RAP members decided to endorse three of the four proposals presented. The fourth, was refused on the grounds that the study wasn't relevant to the MBNMS Research Plan, not because of its scientific merit.

D. MBNMS/GFNMS/CBNMS Marine Mammal Research RFP - RAP Advisors (King) -
- The Selection Evaluation Board and four members of the RAP serving as Advisors, will be selecting the proposals in the very near future. A full report on the selected projects will be presented at the October meeting.

E. Electronic Communications (King) -- The efforts to provide electronic mail service to the Sanctuary office are continuing.

F. Research Budget Summary for 1995 (King) -- A report outlining the MBNMS Research Budget Process was presented. (Please see attachment)

G. Fort Ord Update (Eittreim) -- Steve Eittreim provided a report on research projects in the Fort Ord former restricted zone. He indicated that some small unidentified mounds were discovered at about 30-40 meters deep. The objects are not thought to be geologic in origin and will warrant further investigation. More work is scheduled for October.

Greg added that his investigation of the causes for lesions in flat fish will be done on a continual basis once the money promised by the Army is in hand.

H. Change of Date or Cancel November RAP meeting? (Cailliet) -- The RAP will hold a combined November/December meeting on Friday, December 8 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at Hopkins Marine Station.

I. Institutional Permit Status (DeVogelaere) -- Efforts for gaining a final resolution to the Institutional Permit Process are continuing.

J. Marine Reserves Symposium -- The Center for Marine Conservation is sponsoring a panel discussion on the global benefits of marine reserves on Friday, September 22 at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. (Please see attached flyer)

K. The U.S. Research Funding Outlook -- (Please see attachment)

L. Permit Report -- For specific comments and questions about the August Permit Report, please call Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

V. OTHER ITEMS

¥ RAP members interested in receiving information about the research equipment available through the NURP program are encouraged to view the inventory list located on the internet. The address is:

<http://www.wcnurc.alaska.edu:8000/>

¥ Santa Cruz has received a \$500,000 grant to develop a graduate training ground for the interdisciplinary social and natural sciences in the Monterey Bay region. The five year program is the first of its kind and can be seen as an indication that there is an interest in regional interdisciplinary programs.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane M. DeLay
SAC Coordinator

RAP Meeting Minutes
FINAL -
Page